

CONFIDENTIAL

19 February 1937

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Gordon M. Stewart

SUBJECT : Overseas Assignments for Clerical Personnel

Gordon :

On my trip to the Far East last Fall there were a number of stations that were short of clerical personnel. (I have also seen several cables to this same effect since my return.) I noted that we even resorted to sending clerical personnel on "temporary duty" to places like [REDACTED] which can hardly be considered as a "hardship post." On several occasions people in the Department of State, including Ambassadors, chided me to the effect that they could staff their offices with competent clerical personnel whereas we couldn't, even though our salaries, generally speaking, were higher than theirs. In discussing this with a number of clerical people in the field I was often told that there were plenty of girls in Washington who would like very much to have overseas assignments but that their bosses would not permit them to make this fact known and would not release them for assignments when any to their liking came up.

This seems to me to be a bad situation. To meet it why shouldn't we have a policy (and publicize it) to the effect that we need clerical people overseas, that anyone interested is encouraged to apply, and that no supervisor may stop such an application or refuse to release an individual for an overseas assignment if he is really necessary to the fulfillment of our needs.

/s/

L. K. White

DD/s;lkw:laq

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